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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Canceled
2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration consisting essentially of a synergistic combination of a topically acceptable antiviral substance selected from the group consisting of acyclovir, cidofovir, desciclovir, famciclovir, ganciclovir, lobucavir, penciclovir, PMEA, valacyclovir, 2242, PAA, PFA and H2G or an ester, salt or solvate thereof and an anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid selected from the group consisting of alclometasone, amicinonide, beclomethasone, budesonide, ciclesonide, clobetasone, clorcortolone, cloprednol, cortison, desonide, desoximethasone, dexamethasone, diflorosane, diflucortolone, difluprednate, fludrocortisone, fludroxycoftid, flumethasone, flunisolide, fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinonide, fluocortin, fluocortolone, fluprednidene, fluticasone, halcinonide, halobetasol, halometasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, mometasone, paramethasone, prednisolone, prednicarbate, prednisone, prednylidene, rofleponide, tipredane and triamcinolone, and their esters, salts and solvates in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
3. Canceled
4. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone, alclometasone, desonide, fluprednidene, flumethasone, hydrocortisone butyrate, clobetasone, triamcinolone, acetonide, betamethasone, budesonide, desoximethasone, diflorosane, flucinolone, fluocortolone, fluticasone, methylprednisolone, aceponate, mometasone and rofleponide or an ester, salt or solvate thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4², wherein the anti-viral substance is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4², wherein the antiviral substance is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is budesonide, or an ester thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4², wherein the antiviral substance is acyclovir, or an ester, salt or solvate thereof, and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.
8. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 comprising 0.1-10% (w/w) foscarnet and 0.005-3% (w/w) hydrocortisone.
9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 comprising 1-5% (w/w) foscarnet.

Appl. No. 10/771,259

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10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 comprising 0.3-3% (w/w) foscarnet and 0.25-1% (w/w) hydrocortisone.
11. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6 comprising 0.1-10% (w/w) foscarnet and 0.005-3% (w/w) hydrocortisone.
12. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 comprising 1-5% (w/w) foscarnet.
13. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 comprising 0.1-10% (w/w) acyclovir and 0.005-3% (w/w) hydrocortisone.
14. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 comprising 1-5% (w/w) acyclovir.
15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 comprising 0.25-1% (w/w) hydrocortisone.
16. (Currently Amended) A cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen containing a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1-152, 4-15.
17. Canceled
18. (Currently Amended) A method for treating herpes virus infections of the skin or mucous membranes in mammals having or identified as being at risk of developing said infections comprising topically administrationadministering thereto, in combination or in sequence, efa therapeutic dose of a topically acceptable antiviral substance selected from the group consisting of acyclovir, cidofovir, desciclovir, famciclovir, ganciclovir, lcbucavir, penciclovir, PMEA, valacyclovir, 2242, PAA, PFA and H2G or an ester, salt or solvate thereof and an anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid selected from the group consisting of alclometasone, amcinonide, beclomethasone, budesonide, ciclesonide, clobetasone, clo cortolone, cloprednol, cortison, desonide, desoximethasone, dexamethasone, diflorosane, diflucortolone, difluprednate, fludrocortisone, fludroxcortid, flumethasone, flunisolide, fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinonide, fluocortin, fluocortolone, fluprednidene, fluticasone, halcinonide, halobetasol, halometasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, mometasone, paramethasone, prednisolone, prednicarbate, prednisone, prednylidene, rofleponide, tipredane and triamcinolone and their esters, salts and solvates in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. Canceled

Appl. No. 10/771,259

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 20.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone, alclometasone, desonide, fluprednidene, flumethasone, hydrocortisone butyrate, clobetasone, triamcinolone, acetonide, betamethasone, budesonide, desoximethasone, diflorasone, flucinolone, fluocortolone, fluticasone, methylprednisolone, aceponate, mometasone and rofleponide or an ester, salt or solvate thereof.
- 21.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 187, wherein the anti-viral substance is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.
- 22.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 187, wherein the antiviral substance is foscarnet and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is desonide, or an ester thereof.
- 23.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 187, wherein the antiviral substance is acyclovir, or an ester, salt or solvate thereof, and the anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.
- 24.(Currently Amended) A ~~The method for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of treating herpes_virus infections of the skin or mucous membranes in mammals having or identified as being at risk of developing said infections comprising topically administering thereto a therapeutic dose of a topically acceptable composition according to any one of claims 1-152 and 4-15.~~
- 25.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the composition is contained in a cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen.
- 26.(Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims ~~17-23~~18 and 20-23, wherein the herpes_virus infection is a recurrent herpes virus infection.
- 27.(Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims ~~18 and 20-23~~17-23, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
- 28.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.
- 29.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
- 30.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.

Appl. No. 10/771,259

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 31.(Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 18 and 20-2317-23 wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered in combination and are contained in a cream, lotion, gel, ointment, plaster, stick or pen.
- 32.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said herpes virus infection is a recurrent herpes virus infection.
- 33.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
- 34.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.
- 35.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 1 to 10 times per day.
- 36.(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the antiviral substance and the glucocorticoid are administered 3 to 4 times per day.
- 37.(Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4-~~or~~2, wherein said glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.
- 38.(Currently Amended) The method according to claims 17-~~or~~ 18, wherein said glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone.
- 39.(Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4-~~or~~2, comprising 1-5% w/w acyclovir and 0.25-1% w/w hydrocortisone.
- 40.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17-18, wherein said antiviral is acyclovir and said anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid is hydrocortisone, or an ester thereof.

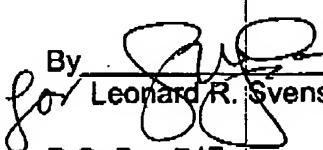
Appl. No. 10/771,259

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

#47,604

By 
for Leonard R. Svensson, #30,330

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(714) 708-8555

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